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U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Maritime  
Administration**

USCG-04-14860-108  
USCG-04-17655-257  
USCG-04-17696-222

Administrator

400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

USCG-04-18974-277  
USCG-05-21252-134

October 17, 2005

The Honorable Robert Riley  
Governor of Alabama  
State Capitol  
600 Dexter Avenue  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

2005 OCT 21 P 12:38

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

SENT BY FEDERAL EXPRESS AND FAX – (334) 242-0937

Re: Hurricane Katrina; Effect on Pending Deepwater Port Applications

Dear Governor Riley:

Due to the destruction caused by Hurricane Katrina, the Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) want to inform you that we have temporarily suspended the processing of pending Gulf Coast region Deepwater Port license applications.

The Deepwater Port Act requires the USCG and MARAD to comply, at a minimum, with the fundamental elements of public participation; public notice of, and accessible public meetings, essential and meaningful consultation with state regulators, and consultation with Federal officials to complete the application processing requirements. Clearly, this is not possible at this time.


MARAD and USCG recognize the dire situation caused by Katrina, and the need for the State of Alabama to devote its resources to the substantial recovery and clean-up efforts. Clearly, the State of Emergency that now exists in the Gulf of Mexico has destroyed infrastructure; displaced citizens and state regulators, and the federal employees involved in the Deepwater Port process to more urgent issues.

We assure you, however, that we will be working closely with you, the appropriate state and local officials, and concerned Federal Agencies to make the determination as to when we will resume the public process of our application procedures. We are certainly well aware of the importance of these projects and will move forward as soon as practical.

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The Honorable Robert Riley

The USCG and MARAD are committed to the revitalization of the entire Gulf Coast region and will continue to work with you, State of Alabama regulators, and all interested parties to meet both the nation's energy and marine transportation needs. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Linden Houston of my office. He can be reached via telephone at 202-366-4839 or via e-mail at [Linden.Houston@dot.gov](mailto:Linden.Houston@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Jamian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Jamian".

John Jamian  
Deputy Maritime Administrator

cc: Mark Prescott, USCG

M. Barnett Lawley, Commissioner of Conservation  
State of Alabama  
Alabama Department of Conservation  
64 North Union Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130